

Meeting Times & Place

Time: 1:00 PM on 4th Saturday of each month

Meetings: Englewood Public Library

Address: 1000 Englewood Parkway, Englewood, CO
80110 (Hampden & Santa Fe)

September 2015

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The Denver Chapter of Hearing Loss Association of American will meet at the Englewood Public Library, 1000 Englewood Parkway, Englewood, CO. Chapter contact: Dave Conant: email to daveconant@hotmail.com

August HLAA Picnic a Success!

The annual picnic held at Creek Side Park on Saturday, August 15th, was well attended. Lots of yummy food and refreshing beverages were enjoyed by those in attendance. If you didn't make the picnic this year, plan on attending next year. It's an annual event!



Speaker for the Sept HLAA meeting: Kenzie Davison from ADCO. Kenzie has been connected with the Deaf and hard-of-hearing community since 1993. She is a strong advocate for supporting independence and communication for individuals in this community. As the *Senior Account Manager* at **ADCO Hearing**, she works every day to provide product guidance and education that result in greater comfort, communication, and connection. When she is not at ADCO Hearing, Kenzie enjoys Colorado's great outdoors by hiking, swimming, and volunteering with horses.

Picture shows some of the HLAA members and guests enjoying the picnic



TeleCoil and Hearing Loops

Those of us who attend the Denver Chapter of HLAA are familiar with hearing loops. We've heard our President Bernie ask us if we've adjusted our hearing aids to "telecoil" mode before our meetings begin and when we listen to our guest speakers. The Chapter is very lucky to have leadership that is up-to-date with hearing technology. It isn't the Englewood Library providing the Hearing Loop, but our own organization! How lucky we are!

Hearing aids are very helpful in conversational settings for individuals with hearing loss. However, move to an "auditorium or setting where TV loudspeakers are at a distance, when the context is noisy, or when room acoustics reverberate sound. A hearing loop magnetically transfers the microphone or TV sound signal to hearing aids and cochlear implants that have a tiny, inexpensive "telecoil" receiver. This transforms the instruments into in-the-ear loudspeakers that deliver sound customized for one's own hearing loss."

Not all hearing aids come with the telecoil (t-coil) as "standard". However, the greater a person's need for hearing assistance, the more likely they are to have the telecoil technology in the hearing aid model they choose. New model cochlear implants offer telecoils.

Are hearing loops expensive? Did you ever think about "looping" your family room to better enjoy TV? According to one Website, a self-installed home loop probably costs between \$140 to \$300. An example of locations interested in the loop are churches and synagogues and the cost might not be excessive. Find a couple of "engineer" type members; define the need and desired outcome to them; tell them where to get information (local businesses or on the Internet); give them a budget (ask for donations?); and let them solve the problem! Example: Green Mountain United Methodist Church (where our Holiday Party met last year) has many members with hearing loss but not a big budget. Two volunteers were recruited (HLAA member Carl Worster was one of them!) and they solved the problem economically. Carl encouraged our neighbor (a retired electrical engineer), who attends another church that wanted to pursue the "loop" technology. That project has been satisfactorily completed also.

Advantages to the "loop" system for users with tele-coil hearing aids include: used more because it is easier; no, or minimal, cost to the user for the t-coil in the hearing aid. Another advantage is that the person with hearing loss will be using the hearing aids so no need to stand in line to "check out" and return a pieces of equipment, and one that has been used by others. Less expensive for the facility because they do not require a receiver and headset that has to be checked out and returned and may, in some cases, need to be replaced; (Personal experience from Charlotte: My hearing is diminishing and I could not understand our church service recently. I "flipped the switch" that put my hearing aids into "telecoil" mode and I was a happy camper for the rest of the service!)

(Factual information was gratefully "borrowed" from a variety of Websites. For more information, search using your favorite browser.)



THANKS TO—

Ann Monson, who has been the Denver Chapter, HLAA treasurer for several years. Her loyal service is gratefully appreciated. Good luck in your new endeavors, Ann!

WELCOME TO—

Wynne Whyman as Chapter Treasurer. She may be contacted at wynne4@comcast.net.

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